



U.S. Immigration
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News Release

**WOMAN CONVICTED OF ENSLAVING 11-YEAR-OLD CHILD IN MARYLAND
EXPELLED FROM CAMEROON TO SERVE JAIL TIME HERE**
Theresa Mubang fled from D.C. area following her criminal conviction

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An American who fled to Cameroon after being convicted last year for her role in a scheme involving the slavery of an 11-year-old child has been expelled from Cameroon and returned to the United States to serve a lengthy prison sentence.

Theresa Mubang, 42, a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Cameroon, was returned to the United States on Saturday to serve her prison sentence after being detained in Cameroon last week. Last year, a federal jury in the District of Maryland convicted Mubang of involuntary servitude and harboring an illegal alien for financial gain. On Feb. 28, 2005, she was sentenced in absentia to 17 and one-half years prison and ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution to the now 18-year-old victim.

She was awaiting sentencing while wearing an electronic home detention device when she removed the device and fled.

"Cooperation between Cameroon and the United States has ensured Mubang will serve the prison term she earned," said Marcy Forman, Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Office of Investigations. "This case shows that human trafficking remains a 21st century crime and its victims need champions like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Diplomatic Security Service, and the Department of Justice."

Because the United States does not have an extradition treaty with Cameroon, Mubang's return rested on cooperation between the countries. At the U.S. Embassy in Yaounde, Cameroon, Department of State special agents of the Diplomatic Security Service were instrumental in coordinating Mubang's expulsion with the government there.

"No one should suffer the fear and indignity of involuntary servitude," said R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. "The Justice Department takes these charges very seriously and is committed to prosecuting those who attempt to profit by the systematic abuse and degradation of others. I commend the ICE investigators, the Department of State, and the U.S. Marshals for pursuing this convicted trafficker. By working together, we send a clear message that the United States will not tolerate this assault to human dignity."

Mubang, who lived in Silver Spring, Md., fled shortly after her conviction. Prior to sentencing, Mubang stated she had to care for her own children. A federal judge subsequently released her with the condition that she wear a home detention device. Mubang removed the device and fled to Cameroon, leaving her own children in the care of her severely mentally handicapped brother.

The crime for which Mubang was convicted began in November 1996 when Mubang used a false passport in to bring Evelyn Chumbow, 11 years old at the time, from Cameroon into the U.S. Mubang told Chumbow's family in Cameroon that the child would receive a better life and an education in American schools.

Court testimony showed that, instead, Mubang cut off communication between Chumbow and her family, and forced the child to work as a cook and maid in Mubang's home. Additionally, Mubang made Chumbow care constantly for her sons and sleep on the floor of the children's room. Chumbow was also forced to care for a neighbor's child in the morning and afternoon.

Mubang forbade Chumbow from attending school and making friends with other children, and would not allow the child to leave the home except to perform specific tasks.

Mubang verbally, mentally and physically abused Chumbow, even using a high-heel shoe, a metal broom handle, a cable TV wire, and her fists to severely beat the child. Chumbow escaped Mubang's abuse by running away with a visiting cousin while Mubang attended a conference.

As part of the investigation, ICE investigators uncovered an additional scheme. Agents determined that, prior to smuggling Chumbow into the U.S., Mubang brought 9-year-old Cameroon citizen Cecilia Nkolo here. Like Chumbow, Nkolo was forced to work and was abused. Mubang sent Nkolo back to Cameroon after the child called the police several times and Maryland Child Welfare Services intervened.

Mubang was turned over Thursday to U.S. Marshals by Cameroon officials and arrived in the U.S. on Saturday at Dulles airport.

The case leading to Mubang's conviction was investigated by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Mubang was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daphene R. McFerren and Trial Attorney Amy Pope of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Mubang's return was facilitated by the government of Cameroon, the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon, the U.S. State Department and its Diplomatic Security Service special agents at the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon, the Department of Justice's International Affairs office, the U.S. Marshal Service headquarters' international fugitives section, and Interpol.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.